

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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FOR THE RECORD

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Kentucky Baptists remind Haitians 'God has not forgotten them'

By Robin Bass
Partnerships Editor

Within days of Haiti suffering a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake last January, Kentucky Baptists were in the country assessing the damage and preparing to render aid.

In the months that followed, roughly 250 volunteers through Kentucky Baptist disaster relief would join a host of other state Baptist conventions and organizations to provide much-needed medical care, clean-up assistance, water purification and food. When the relief operation switched to a rebuilding effort last fall, volunteers from the Bluegrass State continued to pour their time and skills into helping the people of Haiti.

From the very beginning, Coy Webb said, "we've been there." Webb, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was on the initial assessment team—that included representatives from the North American Mission Board, Baptist Global Relief and members of several Southern Baptist conventions and organizations from Florida, Mississippi and South Carolina.

Together, the team worked with Haitian Baptists to identify immediate needs and began drafting mid- and long-term relief plans. What they discovered was overwhelming. Initial estimates were that 3 million

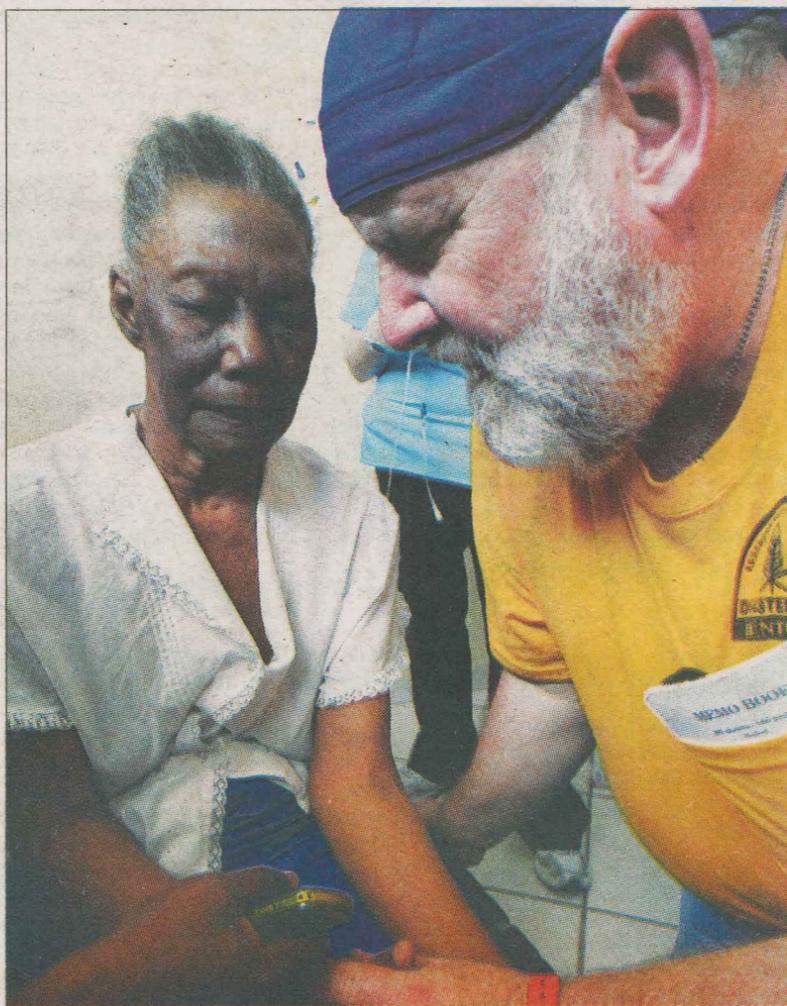
people—or one in three Haitians—were affected in some way by the natural disaster.

Later, it was determined that the number of deaths directly caused by the earthquake ranged between 100,000 and 300,000. More significantly for relief workers was that more than 1.5 million people were left homeless. Even more were jobless and without schools and churches.

"We provided scores of people some type of shelter. We helped several churches so they could resume services," Webb said. "While that doesn't fix everything, it does remind people that they are not forgotten—that God has not forgotten them."

Since last January, the KBC has sent 18 teams to Haiti to provide disaster relief or medical services. Depending on skill level, team assignments included setting up temporary housing, cleaning up debris and providing damage assessments for homes. Nurses and EMTs tended to the physical needs; chaplains tended to the spiritual ones.

"God was at work in Haiti in such a way, and I want to thank Kentucky Baptists for being there," said Fritz Wilson, the Florida Baptist Convention's disaster relief coordinator. The Florida organization has been leading the relief effort—as requested by the Southern Baptist Convention—
□ See Haiti: One Year Later ... Page 6



PRAYER FOR HEALING Kentucky Baptist volunteer chaplain Glenn Hickey, a member of First Baptist Church of Monticello, consoles a Haitian woman at a makeshift medical clinic in a police station across the street from the collapsed presidential palace in Port-au-Prince. Hickey was part of a 10-member medical team that traveled to Haiti less than three weeks after the earthquake struck. That group was the first of 18 Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams to serve in the country last year. (Photo by Ken Touchton/Florida Baptist Convention)

West. Ky. conference carries on legacy of 'powerful preaching'

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Princeton—In the 1988 Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association annual, then-associational evangelism director Mark Bond noted the success of the inaugural Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference.

Of the gathering he wrote: "It's our prayer that the conference will become an annual project of our association."

Nearly two and a half decades later, it's obviously that prayer was answered.

"It has become one of those things that's a really strong tradition in our association and a strong tradition in the western end of the state," Caldwell-Lyon Director of Missions Rick Reeder said.

The latest edition of the Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference takes place Feb. 7 at Southside Baptist Church in Princeton.

One of the men who will enter the Southside pulpit next month is Ronnie Sivells, a western Kentucky church development strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southside Baptist's interim pastor.

Sivells also was one of the original six preachers featured at the inaugural conference back in 1988.

"He's a bit of legend in western Kentucky," conference chairman Kyle Noffsinger said of Sivells. "He is just a phenomenal preacher (and) a dear friend to so many of us here."

Among the others at that first conference were Kentucky native and former Southern Baptist Convention president Franklin Paschall, as well as Jack Stanton, a former Home (now-North American) Mission Board leader who was known to many Southern Baptists as "Mr. Evangelism."

In the years since, the names of those who have spoken at the conference reads like a who's who of Southern Baptist life. All the while, the Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference has captured a permanent place on Caldwell-Lyon's associational agenda.

"We have people who put this on their calendars every year. They call early and ask us who we're having" come preach, Reeder said.

Noffsinger counts himself among those who look forward to the annual conference. Even as a young minister serving at a church 70 miles from Princeton, he said he was sure not to miss it.

Over the last two and a half decades,

the Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference has established a legacy, one Noffsinger said is described in two words: "powerful preaching."

The conference is a time of "getting together with brothers and sisters in Christ, raising hands in praise, opening Bibles to learn and just opening your heart to the leadership of the Holy Spirit," Noffsinger explained.

The pastor at First Baptist Church of Fredonia said in today's world, solid, biblical preaching "is probably more necessary now than ever."

"Preaching is not irrelevant," he stressed. "We are a people in need of a word from God."

"Preaching is not irrelevant. We are a people in need of a word from God."

Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference chair Kyle Noffsinger

And as the one responsible for assembling this year's conference lineup, Noffsinger said his only goal was to get "men who would stand in the pulpit and give us a word from God."

This year that group includes a quartet of pastors and vocational evangelists who will each deliver two messages during the one-day event.

In addition to Sivells, the preachers include Hershael

York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Baptist Church in Corinth, Miss.; and Alabama evangelist Bob Pittman. The music will be led by the Illinois-based trio Sons of the Father.

Unlike other similar events, the Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference never has had an assigned theme. However, Reeder said, when they begin preaching, the speakers' messages usually begin to "follow a theme that seems to be set out by the Holy Spirit."

Noffsinger agreed.

"When you have guys like this, we basically want them to be led by the Spirit and to preach what God has laid upon their hearts," he said.

While evangelism conferences typically appeal mainly to pastors, Noffsinger said a good number of laypeople participate each year and always are welcome.

"We want anyone who loves ... powerful preaching and singing to come" to the conference, he said. "It is a place to recharge, to re-energize—and we're excited about it."

The Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference has three sessions beginning at 9 a.m. and 1 and 6 p.m. For more information, call Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association at (270) 365-9919.

State CP giving drops in December

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists' giving through the Cooperative Program declined in the last month of 2010. Gifts supporting missions through the Cooperative Program totaled \$1,863,758 in December.

After the first four months of the 2010-11 fiscal year, Cooperative Program giving is running more than 9 percent behind the pace needed to reach the \$23.5 million goal for the year, according to Lowell Ashby, business services team leader with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"It appears a number of year-end church gifts were not received until after Jan. 1, so we are hoping for a rebound in the fifth month of the fiscal year," Ashby said. "We will certainly know better how we stand after February 2011, which wraps up the first half of our fiscal year."

The drop came a month after Ken-

tucky Baptists exceeded the monthly budget in their CP giving by more than \$9,000 noted Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources.

"Even though the economy is still struggling, Kentucky Baptists showed in November—and continue to show—that they are missions-minded believers," Compton said. "I think the best days of missions, accomplished through the Cooperative Program, are ahead of us."

Giving through the Cooperative Program sustains an array of hands-on, educational and equipping ministries. For example, in February and March, the KBC is offering training for Kentucky Baptists in the areas of preschool and children's ministry, church planting, ministry to multi-housing communities, the role of deacons in the church, and creative ministries.

Univ. of Kentucky settles religious discrimination suit with professor

Lexington—An astronomy professor last week won a settlement after suing the University of Kentucky for religious discrimination, a case that could have national implications regarding religious intolerance in academia.

The university agreed to pay \$125,000 to Martin Gaskell, who was represented in the case by the American Center for Law and Justice.

"In bringing this case and successfully resolving it, we believe we have shed some light on a problem that is by no means limited to the University of Kentucky," ACLJ senior trial counsel Frank Manion said.

Gaskell, now a research fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, was one of two finalists in 2007 in the search for a founding director of the University of Kentucky's MacAdam Student Observatory.

In an earlier ruling, U.S. District Judge Karl Forester noted that the chair of the search committee described Gaskell as "superbly qualified," "breathhtakingly above the other applicants" and someone "who has already done everything we would want the observatory director to do."

Yet during the search process, a member of the committee discovered an article titled "Modern Astronomy, the Bible and Creation" on Gaskell's personal website and circulated it to the committee, according to the Lexington Herald-Leader. Gaskell then was described as "likely fascinating to talk with, but potentially evangelical."

Instead of hiring Gaskell to direct the observatory, the committee chose a former student and employee of the university's physics and astronomy department.

Forester, in his ruling against the university's motion for summary judgment, wrote that the head of the search committee admitted in an e-mail to the chair of the physics and astronomy department that "no objective observer could possibly believe that we excluded Martin on any basis other than religious."

The department chair said "the debate generated by Gaskell's website and his religious beliefs was an 'element' in the decision not to hire Gaskell," the judge added.

Gaskell has said he is not a creationist and believes "God has not yet revealed everything to us in the Bible" and "we don't know all the answers in science yet," the newspaper said.

His website commentary includes regret that creationists "attack" the science of evolutionists. While there are significant scientific problems in evolutionary theory, he said, the "real problem with humanistic evolution is the unwarranted atheistic assumptions and extrapolations."

"What became clear is that the reaction of some of those involved in this hiring process to a scientist who dared to be open about his Christian faith is, unfortunately, fairly typical of academia generally," Jay Sekulow, ACLJ's chief counsel, wrote last week. (BP)

Rural church using revival to build 'Great Commission families'

Henderson—A rural church with an average Sunday morning attendance of 80, Cash Creek Baptist Church is taking a megachurch approach to its upcoming revival.

The Henderson church will host its "Building Great Commission Families" revival Feb. 4-6. The event combines evangelistic preaching and teaching with an emphasis on equipping Christian families for ministry, Pastor Nick Clark explained.

"We are seeking really to be a church that fosters family ministry," said Clark, 28, who came to the church last March.

With several young families in the congregation, Clark said he often is asked by parents how to share the gospel with their kids and build

Christian homes. "They basically come out and just say, 'We need to be-trained in this.'"

Leading the worship times is Daniel Conrades, a family pastor at First Baptist Church of Charlestown, Ind., just north of Louisville. He is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where Clark also is pursuing a degree.

"He is going to be leading us in a biblical discussion on what the Bible's vision is for families," Clark said.

The weekend also will include breakout sessions examining topics such as the biblical roles of men and women at home and in the church, the evangelization of children, and the theology of adoption.

Clark said the church supports the complementarian view of the role of men and women, just as the Southern Baptist Convention Baptist Faith & Message states. That view, he suggested, often is in contrast to the egalitarian stance that is presented by the media and popular culture.

The recent push for same-sex marriage and adoptions among homosexual couples also run counter to God's word, Clark said.

Pointing people to a biblical view of marriage is increasingly important "in a culture that seeks to redefine marriage and family," he noted.

The young pastor said through family-focused revivals like this one, churches, too, will reap the benefits.

"We just see an overall downgrade

in ... the biblical vision for the family," Clark said. "So, if we equip our people in our churches to be Great Commission focused in our families, we can help build our churches."

The worship sessions, led by Conrades, will be held all three days of the revival. The four breakout sessions will be held Saturday afternoon. Among those leading the sessions are Kyle McDanell, pastor of Goshen Baptist Church in Glen Dean, and Alan Scott, pastor of Oakhill Baptist Church in Evansville, Ind., who recently wrapped up a term as president of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

For more information, contact Nick Clark by phone, (270) 823-7683, or e-mail, nryanclark@gmail.com.

Correction

A photo accompanying the front-page story "Turning the Page" in the Jan. 11 Western Recorder should have listed the vote totals for the Great Commission Task Force report at the 2010 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting as 621-317.

Seminary to go ahead with plans to evict association

Fort Worth, Texas—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has indicated in a second letter that it intends to pursue its claim to office space currently used by Tarrant Baptist Association, apparently because the association retains as a member a church that was removed from the Southern Baptist Convention for its acceptance of homosexuals.

Al Meredith, moderator of Tarrant Baptist Association, told the Texas Baptist Standard newspaper he received a letter Jan. 18 indicating seminary officials still want the association out of the office building it has long occupied on the edge of the seminary campus in Fort Worth, Texas.

The seminary previously sent a registered letter Dec. 12 giving the association six months to vacate the offices under terms of a 1997 affiliation agreement requiring the two organizations be in "theological harmony." Meredith said in a letter to associational leaders that the seminary's December letter said the association has one or more member churches that do not act in accordance with an article in the Baptist Faith and Message that declares homosexuality immoral.

Tarrant Baptist Association member congregations include Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth. The SBC expelled the congregation in 2009 after an investigation into a dispute within the church over whether to include portraits of same-sex couples in a church directory failed to convince Southern Baptist leaders that Broadway met a membership guideline excluding churches that "act to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

Broadway Baptist chose not to send messengers that year to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting in order to avoid a similar confrontation. Last September the church voted to discontinue its relationship with the BGCT, saying the church wants to carry on its ministries without being distracted by questions about its position on homosexuality.

Broadway Pastor Brent Beasley told the Dallas Morning News "it would be safe to assume" the reference in the seminary's letter was to his church.

In addition to the homosexuality concern, Meredith said the original seminary letter said the association hasn't been helpful enough in helping students and faculty seeking preaching jobs in Tarrant Association churches, and that Southwestern needs the space for offices or a welcome center.

Meredith said he does not believe the seminary has legal authority to end the agreement unilaterally, and after an initial meeting with seminary officials he hoped the situation could be resolved without severing the long-term partnership agreement.

After receiving the second letter, however, Meredith said association leaders would discuss a response at a regularly scheduled meeting of the association's executive board this week. (ABP)

Early Annie Armstrong totals down 4 percent

Ezell discusses 2010 offering numbers, NAMB's ongoing changes with WMU

By Mike Ebert
North American Mission Board

Talladega, Ala.—Southern Baptists gave \$54.3 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions in 2010—a \$2.3 million (4 percent) decline compared to the 2009 offering total of \$56.6 million.

North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell shared the total—which has not yet been audited—with leaders attending the recent Woman's Missionary Union annual board meeting in Alabama.

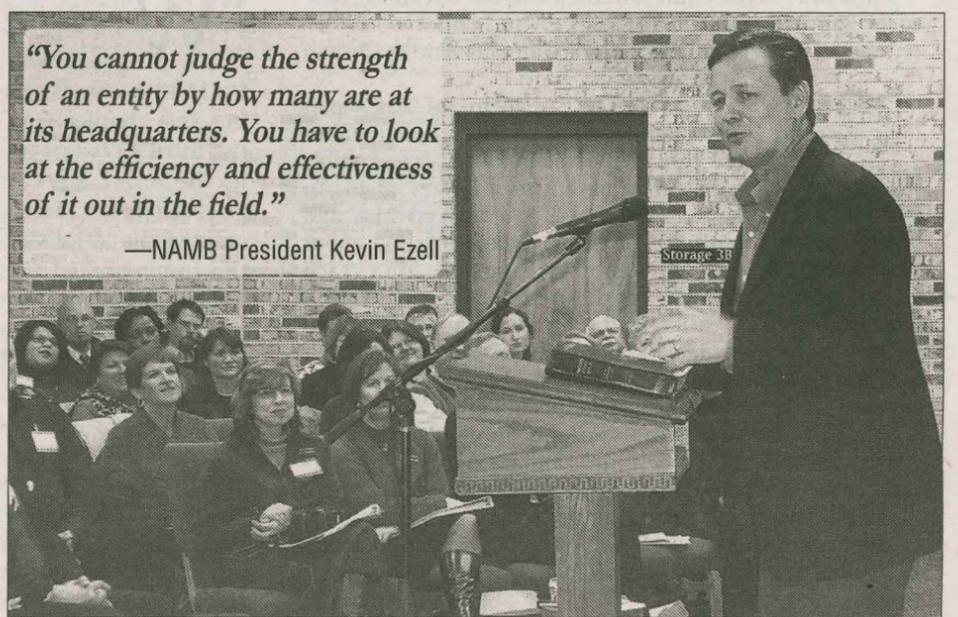
Ezell also addressed the changes that are taking place at NAMB. He said the goal is to bring more resources to the North American mission field. Regarding the 99 NAMB staff members who retired or accepted severance packages at the end of last year, Ezell said, "We are going to operate with fewer people in Alpharetta for the sole purpose of more money going to missionaries on the field. We are going to save \$6 million this year through those staff transitions."

Ezell said details of NAMB's new strategy and how it would be implemented will be shared at the Feb. 9 meeting of NAMB's board of trustees, but he did give insights into what to expect.

■ NAMB's Alpharetta, Ga., staff will stay lean. "We don't all have to be in one location anymore," Ezell said. "You cannot judge the strength of an entity by how many are at its headquarters. You have to look at the efficiency and effectiveness of it out in the field."

■ State conventions are being asked to prioritize their work. "Right now we are working with each state and asking them to let us know their priorities," Ezell noted. "And as a part of that, we are saying, 'These are our priorities. We are trying to narrow our focus.' And then we are asking, 'What is it that you do best? What is it that NAMB does best? And what is it we want to do together?'"

■ New money for church planting will be directed to areas with the largest unreached populations. "What we're going to do with the money we're getting from these reductions is to come into areas with the greatest lostness and put church planting on steroids and do it with a greater degree of intensity there," he said. "We are going to come up with a strategy that can be implemented everywhere. But when you have limited resources, you go with where



"You cannot judge the strength of an entity by how many are at its headquarters. You have to look at the efficiency and effectiveness of it out in the field."

—NAMB President Kevin Ezell

the greatest degree of lostness is."

Ezell said discussions with state Baptist convention leaders have been about shifting more resources to "new-work" states and that NAMB would have written agreements with every state convention that wanted one.

"There doesn't have to be whiplash on this," Ezell said. "We don't have to accomplish all of this by June. We are going to get there and we will find a way to get there together. It takes longer to do it together, but it will be a much better result in the end, and it will produce what we want."

Ezell said not all NAMB missionaries would focus exclusively on church planting. "We're going to have all sorts of missionaries, but they all need to be connecting people to a church," he explained. "We want to help people, but it's help so they can see the hope. And it's not just so they have a hope and it ends there, but it's about them getting connected to a local church. We're trying to make sure everything is church focused."

Ezell later was asked whether NAMB's

work in missions education would continue. "It's not going away, but we want to utilize all of the partners available to us," he said. "We are in the process of making it better—not to see it dissolve, but to utilize partners to do it even better."

In addition, he said NAMB's work with local Baptist associations will continue but might be accomplished in new ways, utilizing staff members outside the Alpharetta headquarters.

Asked if he felt called by God to lead NAMB, Ezell replied he "absolutely felt called."

"Part of the reason I led my church the way I led it was I felt like the system was broken," Ezell said. "I didn't feel like enough money was reaching the missionaries—and I disengaged. But I feel like God said, 'Hey, it's put-up or shut-up time. Do you want to fix it? I'm going to let you fix it.'"

"We have a lot of work to do," Ezell said. "I'm very excited about the future. Change is difficult, but with God's grace and help we are going to take it step by step and get there. I'm very excited about it." (BP)

Baptists work for peace in India

Meghalaya, India—Baptist leaders called for global prayer for peacemaking efforts and for churches and communities affected by ethnic strife in northeast India.

According to the Baptist World Alliance, the Garo Baptist Convention mobilized relief efforts to temporary camps set up for an estimated 50,000 people displaced by fighting between two tribal groups that began Jan. 1.

"Many villages have been torched and people left homeless," reported Wanne Garrey of the Garo Baptist Convention.

She said church leaders were "trying their best to calm down the situation."

At least 10 people have died and an estimated 2,000 houses burned in serious conflict between the Garo and Rabha communities in the border area of Meghalaya and Assam states in northeast India.

Meghalaya is one of three Indian states with a Christian majority. More than 70 percent of inhabitants are practicing Christians, which includes a sizeable Baptist community. (ABP)

Missouri Baptist board begins exec. director search

Jefferson City, Mo.—The Missouri Baptist Convention's Executive Board appointed a subcommittee Jan. 14 to recommend members of an MBC executive director search committee to be elected at the board's April 12 meeting.

The Executive Board also unanimously voted to name Associate Executive Director Jay Hughes as interim executive director until the search committee recommends—and the board approves—a permanent executive director for the convention.

The actions were taken in a closed-door session at the MBC headquarters in Jefferson City, Mo., in response to David Tolliver's resignation Jan. 6, which the board formally accepted. The board also dis-

cussed a process for ministering to the Tolliver family.

Four of those named to the subcommittee are members of the Executive Board's administrative committee: Monte Dunn, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Highlandville; John Marshall, MBC president and pastor of Second Baptist Church of Springfield; Jim Wells, director of missions of the Tri-County Baptist Association in Nixa; and Jody Shelenhamer, a member of Wellspring Baptist Fellowship in Bolivar. The fifth member is Denny Marr, associate minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Republic.

Hughes, 40, has served as controller for the convention since July 2003 and was

named MBC associate executive director in April 2009. The Louisiana native earned a master of business administration degree in 1993 and a bachelor of science degree in accounting in 1992, both from Louisiana Tech University. He is a certified public accountant and a former accounting firm partner. Hughes and his wife, Niki, and their two daughters are members of Memorial Baptist Church in Jefferson City, where he serves as a deacon.

"I humbly accept this appointment by the Executive Board," Hughes said after the meeting. "Please pray for me and the MBC staff as we move forward together. I am grateful for the great team at the MBC." (BP)

'Imagine' outstanding children's ministry

"Imagine" is the name and theme of the upcoming Kentucky Baptist Convention's Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference set for Feb. 11-12 at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown.

Partners in the Mission**By Bill Mackey**

John Bennett, director of KBC's preschool/children's ministry department, has researched and planned an incredible conference based on ministry needs in churches. Bennett is a very creative and enthusiastic leader who is excited about assisting Kentucky Baptists as they teach and care for children.

In consultation with church program leaders, Bennett has secured an excellent faculty of nationally known leaders and outstanding leaders in Kentucky. Each has extensive experience in children's ministry and will bring their best ideas and creativity to the conference for Kentucky church leaders and workers.

Please encourage your church leaders and workers to register immediately for this great learning opportunity. Online registration is available at www.kybaptist.org/imagine.

One of the unique aspects of this conference is that attendees will be in sessions with participants who will share about programs that are working in churches across Kentucky.

As a grandparent, I have a new appreciation for ministry leaders and workers who serve young families and minister to their children in local churches. These workers serve because they are called by God. They take great pride in seeing children grow in their understanding of God's love and grace. It is such a joy to see children respond in faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

It is gratifying to know that Bennett is just as committed to helping parents as he is their children. He understands that a child's first teachers are his parents. Bennett has a passion to see families come to faith in Christ and grow in their faith through the word of God.

I am grateful to know that my grandchildren are learning Bible stories at church and at home. Our granddaughter, Lilly, learned the "ABCs" of salvation and is active in sharing her faith. During Christmas, it was a privilege to assist my grandson, Will, in learning the books of the New Testament.

My son-in-law, Bartley Wooten, who is pastor of Beulahville (N.C.) Baptist Church, is working on a date for Lilly's baptism. He has asked me to preach that Sunday and his father to sing. I am feeling the weight of that opportunity already.

I am glad that our daughters are involved in teaching children in their churches.

Please join with me in praying that every child will have the opportunity to have the best Bible teachers possible and the opportunity to come to faith in Christ and to be encouraged to grow in their faith by parents and grandparents.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Rebuilding homes, restoring hope to Haiti

"What do I do?" a distraught Haitian man, who had lost his wife and two young children, helplessly asked Butch Vernon, a pastor from Nicholasville. At the time, Vernon was serving as a chaplain on one of the first Kentucky Baptist medical teams to enter Haiti after the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake. The grief-stricken man's question epitomized the anguish and despair of the impoverished Caribbean island nation. For some questions, there just are no easy answers, so Vernon, instead, offered the best thing he could: hope and a hug.

A year ago this time, we were hearing the first reports of the massive devastation caused by a 7.0 quake that shook Port-au-Prince, leaving the vast majority of Haiti's capital in ruins and a death toll that quickly soared over 230,000. Though hampered by severed transportation and communication lines, the international community rallied to meet urgent needs—food, water, medical services—and send search and rescue teams to comb through the rubble.

Our hearts broke as we saw horrendous images of unbearable suffering on our televisions and in our newspapers. More than 1 million people were homeless, fleeing to the countryside or sleeping in the streets, afraid to return indoors. Makeshift tent cities of hundreds of thousands sprouted in parks or on barren lots.

Like Vernon, during the first six months, more than 1,000 Southern Baptist volunteers representing 30 state conventions went to minister among the hurting Haitians. In this issue, an article by Partnership Editions Director Robin Bass recounts how Kentucky Baptist volunteers have been involved in extending aid, providing clean-up assistance, medical care, temporary shelters, buckets of food and water. And, an article by News Director Drew Nichter looks ahead to explore how we not only will be involved in efforts to rebuild homes and churches, but also are anticipating responding to a great need for discipling new believers. The Kentucky Baptist Convention has earmarked \$200,000 for "Rebuild Haiti," a cooperative venture to put Haitian families back in safe and secure homes.

Life is slowly improving for some, but so many Haitians still are living in tents—with little food or clean drinking water. "The yellow shirts" have done some incredible relief ministry, but there is still much work to be done.

Yet, Baptists can rejoice in a spiritual movement that appears to be gaining momentum. Just three months after the quake, Haitian pastors were reporting more than 40,000 professions of faith as Haitians searched for hope and comfort. A fresh spiritual wind compelled the pastors to launch several crusades that—coupled with the humanitarian aid of our disaster relief workers and missionaries—continue to reap a

bountiful harvest. The gratitude of the people and the presence of the Lord are evident.

Tom Townsend, business manager for the Western Recorder, served on a mission team to Haiti in the fall. On the first anniversary of the earthquake, we asked him to share his reflections about the Lord's activity there.

"The devastation brought about by the earthquake was overwhelming to all of us who witnessed the lives lost and injured and the property damaged. The rebuilding of the homes, businesses and churches has seemed to be moving at a snail's pace—to the extent that secular media sources are reporting little, if any, progress," Townsend said.

"Baptist news sources, however, trumpet the 250,000 professions of faith and the 260 churches that have sprung up since the quake," he said, noting that Southern Baptists have distributed 150,000 Buckets of Hope and are making plans to assist in constructing 6,000 permanent houses and 240 churches.

"We need to lift this effort in prayer and ask the Father how we might join Him in His activity there," Townsend urged. "The Haitian pastors desperately need Baptist churches in America to come alongside them in the ministry to rebuild their churches, homes and lives. A church here can offer the prayer and emotional support needed by the pastors and congregation members there."

Observing that "political turmoil, economic crises, failed promises and a world that grows more disinterested in the days ahead will confirm to the Haitians that no one really cares," Townsend aptly challenges Christians to remain steadfast in our commitment to providing the spiritual and physical means necessary for them to recover and become the people that God wants them to be. Kentucky Baptists must continue to show the people of Haiti that they have not been forgotten and that God still loves them.

Beyond donating to our disaster relief fund, concerned Baptists can continue praying for the 9 million people of Haiti, where more than 80 percent live in dire poverty. We can pray for those who still do not have adequate living conditions and who are hungry, injured and traumatized. We can pray for the physical and emotional strength of volunteers who will be rebuilding homes and churches. We can pray that God will continue to lead volunteers to respond with compassion to suffering people. And we can pray for opportunities for Baptists to share God's love and for continued responsiveness to the gospel.

Through our compassion and care may hurting Haitians realize the promise of Psalm 41: "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come, and the mountains crumble to the sea."

to hold his glove when fielding a ground ball, it brought me to tears. I immediately thanked God that I was literally seeing the sin of their father pass over them. I praised Him for the way my family is a repudiation of the anti-Jesus prejudices I once subtly embraced.

The truth is, at 17, I already had a letter that had been written to me. I held it in my lap every Sunday morning. I just wasn't really paying much attention to it. If I had, maybe I would have repented of my sin of racism, understanding that, "He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth having determined their allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling places" (Acts 17: 26). (BP)

Jeremy Haskins is associate pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky.

After Thought**By Todd Deaton****Confessions of a former racist****By Jeremy Haskins**

This year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day provided a significant moment for me as a dad. As I threw baseball with three of my four sons, I stopped for a moment to consider with amazement the scene before me. There stood three boys, two white and one black, and they all with equal rights share my last name.

I have often thought like Brad Paisley, "If I could write a letter to me and send it back in time to myself at 17..." If possible, the first thing I would do is rebuke every bit of the residue of racism that was alive in my life at that time.

I grew up in the rural south, and as a teenager racism was still very much ingrained in my culture. It

was subtle, selective and for the most part behind the scenes. However, when it reared its head, it often directed its venom at two things that I now value most in life: family and missions. It was a racism that allowed us to distinguish between those we claimed to love and pray for in Africa and those we neglected in our neighborhoods.

It breaks my heart to say that "the way I was raised" often trumped the gospel on certain issues of race. I'm very proud of where I am from, but this is one root I've had to dig up, burn and destroy. In doing so, I've realized that racism isn't just cultural—it is satanic.

As I watched my oldest son teach his little brother the right way

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Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:19

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Plight of orphans expands scope of 'sanctity'

By Chip Hutcheson

As long as I can remember, the focus of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday has been primarily on protecting the unborn. That's justified, but there are other issues related to the principle that life is sacred which should not be overlooked.

There is the issue of protecting the elderly, and our nation must be ever vigilant against any efforts to promote euthanasia.

But seldom considered is another endangered element of our world today—and that is the plight of orphans.

It's almost unimaginable that there are 147 million orphans in our world right now, the majority of those in third-world countries. As Saddleback Church in southern California notes on its website, "Most of us have a tough time imagining the life of an orphaned child. It's difficult to fathom a day without food, clean water, education, or the presence of a loved one. These vulnerable children have no one to care for them when they fall down, are hungry, sick, or need protection from the pouring rain. They have no hope for a home and a family."

In America, we tend to forget that millions of orphans around the globe struggle merely to survive. The concept of "sanctity" often is not connected to orphans—but it certainly applies.

There were 4.6 million orphans in Ethiopia in 2007. Half the children there will never attend school, and the doctor-to-children ratio is 1 to 24,000. There are as many orphaned and vulnerable children in Ethiopia as there are people in greater New York City.

If all the orphans in the world were moved to the country of Mexico, its population would more than double.

The problem is not confined to other countries. In the U.S., there are over 500,000 children in the foster care system now—129,000 of those are waiting to be adopted from foster care at the moment. About 25,000 children age out of the foster care system each year, many with no support system and little to no life skills.

For our family, adoption became quite real beginning in October 2008 when our son John Mark and his wife, Karen, completed an online application to adopt two children from Ethiopia. But it wasn't until a year later, when

we attended an adoption conference with them in Franklin, Tenn., that our lives were forever changed. We heard about the overwhelming need for orphan care, but then we heard stories of those who had fearlessly and by faith adopted and the amazing blessings they received.

One of the most amazing stories we heard at that conference came from Heidi and Kirk Weimer, a 31-year-old middle Tennessee couple who had three biological children. Heidi began hearing God's call for them to adopt, Kirk then caught the vision, so they adopted three children from Ethiopia. Six months later, they adopted three more, so in a year and a half their life changed from "comfortable and ordinary" to "wild and extraordinary."

Their story of how God rocked their lives and grew their family was spell-binding.

It would only be a month later—after numerous emotional ups and downs because of the Ethiopian courts—before our family experienced the joy of adoption. In November 2009, John Mark and Karen traveled to Ethiopia to bring home their 8-year-old son, Kashiku. He arrived in the U.S. two days after Thanksgiving, knowing very little English but having a smile and personality that made him so special.

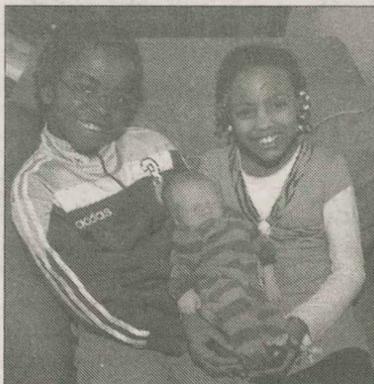
While they were in Ethiopia, they met Lemlem, who they already had plans to adopt. They had to return to the States without her, but three months later Karen returned to Ethiopia to bring her home. At that time she did not know one word of English.

They have been a source of incredible joy in all our lives, rescued from a land where they had known severe hunger, where they had witnessed and endured things that no child should ever have to. Now they are loved beyond measure, and they are learning English and math and spelling at a breakneck pace.

We often wondered if it was possible to love a child who was adopted rather than being a biological offspring. Our question is answered through these two—we love them as though they were our own because they now are our own!

Chip Hutcheson is editor of the Princeton Times-Leader. A member of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, he serves as a trustee of the Western Recorder.

FIRST PERSON



Kashiku and Lemlem with their new brother Isaac, who was born Dec. 20.

Common mistakes when retiring

By Donald Spencer

Two important things when preparing for retirement are simply time and money. You must save enough dollars over an adequate period of time to have sufficient resources in retirement. Less time means you need to save more money. Less money saved means it will take longer. Thus, the first two mistakes too many people make are simply:

- Not Saving enough.
- Not starting savings early in life.

In addition to the above, there are several other common mistakes:

■ **Retiring with too much debt.** Most financial planners would suggest that you not retire until credit, mortgage and other forms of debt are paid off. Too many people are entering retirement with major debts, which sets them up for major problems.

■ **Lack of insurance.** Too many assume Medicare will cover all their medical costs. That is not the case. You need to have Medicare supplement insurance.

■ **Ignoring inflation.** At only 3 percent inflation, the buying power of your money at age 65 will be cut in half by the time you are 89. To say that another way, something that costs you \$200 at age 65 will likely cost you \$400 when you are 89 years old. You must allow for this increase in costs. Too many assume the amount they are receiving at age 65 will be sufficient for their lifetime.

■ **Relying on primarily one retirement source.** You will need money from social security, your retirement plan and personal savings. Rarely will anyone have adequate retirement income from only one of these sources. Too often, folks assume that one of these sources will take care of them in retirement.

■ **Not protecting your savings.** Generally, most people should have less risky investments as they approach retirement. Avoid borrowing or taking early withdrawals from your retirement funds.

■ **Retiring from something instead of to something.** Those who only retire from something end up miserable in retirement. Be sure to have goals for your retirement phase of life—both financial and personal goals.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department



Getting too much caffeine?

By David Garrard

A recent study by researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center reports that children between the ages of 8 and 12 consume an average of three cans of caffeinated soda daily. The study also reports that 75 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 12 consume caffeine in some form on a regular basis. The study was done in order to assess the effect of caffeine on sleep. "Parents should be aware of the potentially negative influence of caffeine on a child's sleep quality and daily functioning," said study author, Dr. William Warzak.

Caffeine, of course, is in effect a drug that affects kids and adults similarly, stimulating the central nervous system. Too much caffeine can cause jitteriness and nervousness, an upset stomach, headaches, increased heart rate and increased blood pressure. It can also make it difficult to concentrate or sleep.

Soft drinks are the primary source of caffeine for kids. These drinks contain empty calories which doctors say contribute to the obesity. Kids who consume one or more soft drinks a day are 60 percent more likely to be obese because the drinks contain empty calories that adversely affect nutrition. The drinks also contain lots of sugar which coupled with the caffeine can cause tooth decay. Doctors say that caffeine can aggravate nervous disorders or heart problems that may be present without children or parents even being aware.

Soft drinks used to be seen as a treat. Now they have become a way of life. Limiting your child's intake may help them function better during the day and sleep better when the day is over.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.



New Year's resolutions, the Great Commission, and solemn assemblies

By Chuck Lawless

George Barna, the researcher and writer, has reviewed America's New Year's resolutions for 2011. Not surprisingly, our resolutions focus on issues related to ourselves: weight, diet and health; money, debt and finances; personal improvement; addiction; job and career; spiritual or church-related; and educational. Less than one percent of Americans claim that one of their goals for this year is to get closer to God. Further, Barna found that very few Americans say they want to improve relationships with others.

So, we Americans want to change—but without God and without others. That, of course, is a recipe for failure. More importantly, it is a call to proclaim the gospel loudly throughout North America. It is a summons to heartfelt, broken prayer on behalf of the church and the people that we are called to reach. In that sense, the call to engage in solemn assemblies in January is right on time.

Think about it. Americans are concerned enough about our health, finances, careers and education that we have made resolutions for change. Though some Americans are concerned about spiritual matters, our relationship with God is not included in our list of resolutions. Apparently, few Americans see enough need to strengthen their relationship with God that they have resolved to seek im-

provement in 2011.

In response, the North American church must announce again an uncompromising Great Commission theology of lostness. We must vociferously declare that Jesus alone is the way to God and that one must turn from sin and trust Christ to be a believer. Nothing less than a personal relationship with Jesus is required; no superficial, cultural, non-transforming "Christianity" will suffice.

Our studies through Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School have shown that many Baptists in our own pews are not convinced that their non-believing neighbor is really lost. I suspect that we have proclaimed lostness, but not nearly as clearly, thoroughly, and systematically as we should. Consequently, our church members have created their own theologies regarding the spiritual condition of those who do not know Christ.

Moreover, the church must proclaim a Great Commission gospel that is local-church based and relationship driven. Our relationship with God is primary, but relationships with other believers are non-negotiable as well. Charles Spurgeon put it this way: "God's people are not dogs, else they might go about one by one; but they are sheep, and therefore they should be in flocks." From the flock of God we find comfort when hurting, strength when struggling, and guidance when

questioning.

The North American church has largely failed, though, to teach a principal purpose of New Testament relationships: lifestyle accountability. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that we are to provoke one another to good works (Hebrews 10:24), and the New Testament is replete with teachings about accountability and responsibility. Somehow we have missed those passages, choosing to dodge them in deference to protecting church harmony and avoiding interpersonal conflict. We have allowed American individualism to trump biblical fellowship, and the result has been believers who struggle on their own to live holy lives.

In terms of the Great Commission, we have produced converts and then released these new believers to become disciples on their own. Such independent living will lead only to spiritual failure. Our witness is then compromised by our failures, the church is painted with negative publicity, and the gospel is perceived to be less than transforming. We need not think long to know why the world listens little as we proclaim our commitment to a Great Commission resurgence.

May God help us, as Baptists called to prayer and solemn assembly, to return to Him and to His church. Only then will the world take note. (BP)

Chuck Lawless is dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

FIRST PERSON

HAITI

One Year Later

Continued from page 1
because of the state's two-decade ministry relationship with Haiti, Wilson explained.

Wilson commended Kentuckians for working "shoulder to shoulder" in partnership with not only the Florida Baptist Convention, but with the many other state conventions that answered the call for help last year. Volunteers in Haiti have shown a willingness to endure stifling heat, rugged terrain, impoverished conditions and the headaches that come with the country's lack of infrastructure.

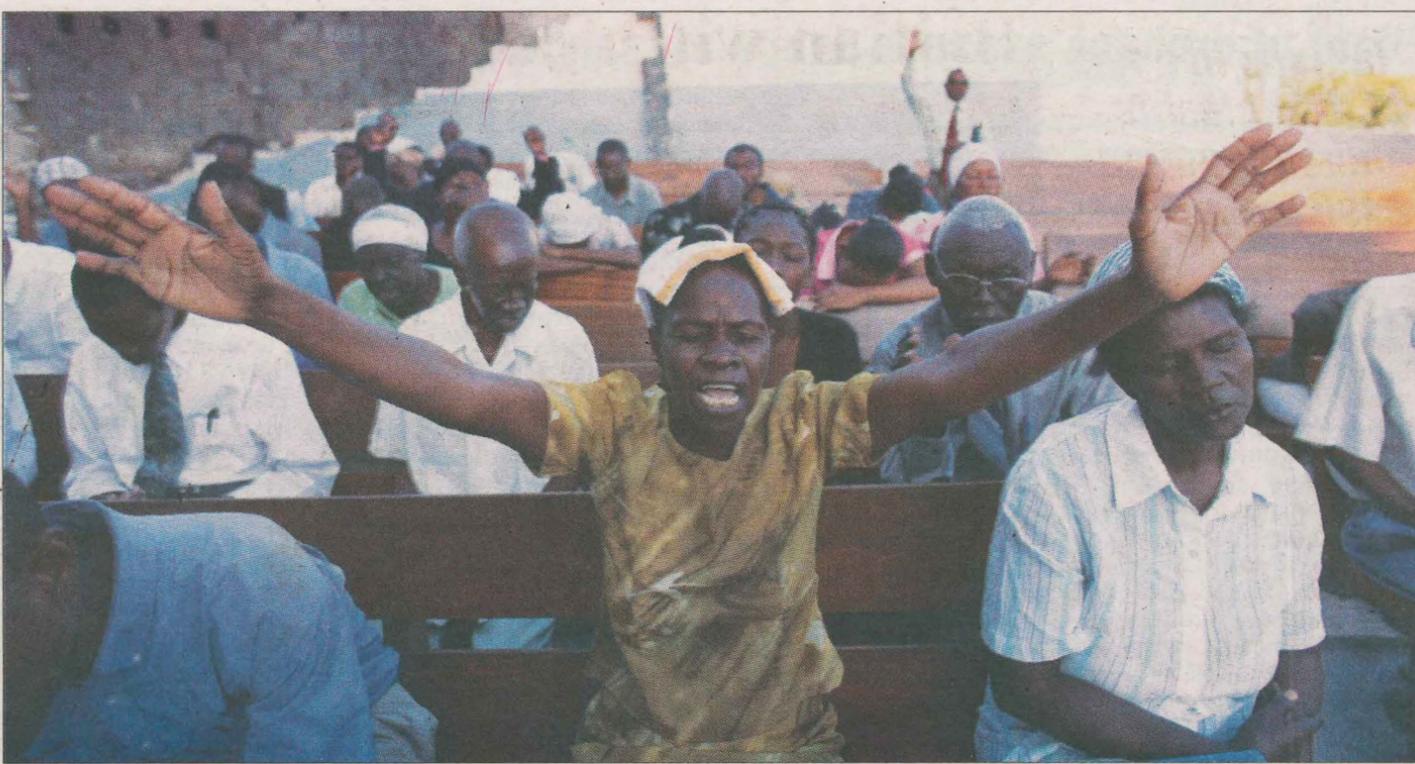
When they could not give their time, Kentucky Baptists gave their resources. Wilson said the state has generously donated more than \$500,000 to Haiti through Florida's disaster relief program. The Kentucky Baptist Convention also collected 9,650 "Buckets of Hope" containing \$400,000 worth of essential food items.

"The first container of buckets we opened was from Kentucky," Wilson said of the more than 70,000 five-gallon buckets sent from conventions across the nation through the North American Mission Board. Each bucket was hand-delivered to Haitian pastors for their church members and contained enough food to feed a family for one week.

As the months passed and the relief effort shifted into the rebuilding phase, Wilson said he has been pleased to discover that the Haitians have "really opened up to us." And it was Kentucky Baptists, he said, that "played a huge role initially to get us to this point."

Since October, Baptist volunteers and Haitian residents have been working together toward an SBC-wide goal to repair nearly 300 damaged churches and construct 6,000 new homes. Wilson said about 100 concrete block homes have been built in the past four months.

The project, called Haiti Rebuild, is designed to create affordable but durable housing that uses local resources and is made with Haitian hands. The project is a



partnership between the SBC, Baptist Global Response, the International Mission Board and the Florida convention. "We're empowering the people and churches in Haiti to help Haiti," Wilson said.

Baptist missionaries have been training Haitian men how to build the 246-square-foot structures, Wilson explained. Teams of 16 men are divided into four groups and spend three weeks practicing their skills in forming foundations, laying block and constructing roofs before going out to the villages. Each house costs \$2,500 to build and is designed in such a way that later it can be expanded by the homeowner.

Pastor Tommy Floyd, of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Monticello, recently spent a week helping with the Haiti Rebuild project and said he found the experience both productive and rewarding.

"It was the hottest place I've ever been to in my life, but the missionaries we worked with were great and the people we worked for were gracious," Floyd said.

The Monticello pastor and a team of nine other men from south central Kentucky were given various construction

jobs—from building an outside bathroom to repairing tin roofs.

"Whatever they needed us to do, we did it," Floyd said. "Flexibility is a key word in mission trips."

Prior to the earthquake, Haiti was on the United Nations' list of least developed nations in the world. Floyd estimated it would take a decade before the country once again rises to that lowly status. In the meantime, he said, "Do not forget there will be physical, as well as spiritual needs there."

'Ministry of presence'

Webb said he believes the Haitians never expected anyone to help them after the earthquake. The country had weathered the disastrous forces of nature before. They had endured floods, hurricanes and previous earthquakes—each causing its own share of death and destruction. Webb said when disaster relief teams arrived, the Haitians were doing whatever was necessary to survive—almost "returning to normal."

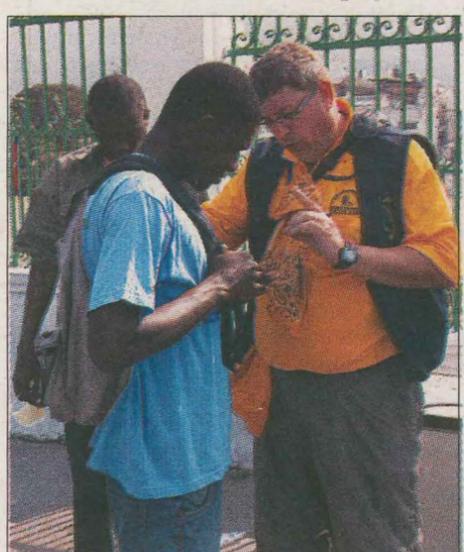
But their lives were not returning to normal. They were living in tent cities and combating cholera. The ones who had left the

cities and moved in with their village relatives were becoming a burden on their families' already-limited resources. While quietly and steadily meeting the basic needs of disaster victims, Webb said Baptists have been able to spread the gospel through what he called "a ministry of presence."

"The reality is that the power was out and people were hungry before the earthquake," Webb said. "I think we have made a tremendous impact there and we have given credibility to our Baptists that are there. We have opened doors to allow people to witness and provided the opportunity to connect with people in a deeper way that we never would have been able to."

Webb said that by combining the efforts of Kentucky Baptists with other state conventions the impact in Haiti has resulted in more than 260 new churches and 250,000 professions of faith.

"They are very much babes in Christ. They will need our help to grow and there will be opportunities for churches to partner," Webb said. "It is important for us to remember that by impacting one life at a time we can make a difference."



'HE LOVES THEM' In front of Haiti's crumbled presidential palace, Butch Vernon, pastor of Thoroughbred Community Church in Nicholasville, prays with a Haitian man. "I've been praying that God will do something today to show that He loves them," he said while in the earthquake-devastated country last January.

CALDWELL/LYON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

24th WESTERN KENTUCKY EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

at Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, KY • SESSIONS: 9:00 - 1:00 - 6:00



Dr. Hershael York
Pastor of Buck Run BC,
Frankfort, KY



Dr. Bob Pittman
Evangelist, Muscle
Shoals, AL



Bro. Ronnie Sivells
KBC Church
Development Strategist,
Western Region



Dr. Kara Blackard
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SESSION 1 — 9:00 A.M.

Worship Music Sons of the Father
Welcome & Invocation
Introduction of Speakers
Message..... Bro. Ronnie Sivells
Worship Music Sons of the Father
Message Dr. Kara Blackard
Special Music..... Sons of the Father
Message.....Dr. Hershael York
Benediction

Break For Lunch 11:30 (Provided)

SESSION 2 — 1:00 P.M.

Worship Music Sons of the Father
Welcome & Invocation
Introduction of Speakers
Worship Music Sons of the Father
Message..... Dr. Bob Pittman
Special Music..... Sons of the Father
Message.....Dr. Hershael York
Worship Music..... Sons of the Father
Message..... Bro. Ronnie Sivells
Benediction

Break For Dinner 4:00 (On Your Own)
Meal for the speakers, musicians and Evangelism Team
will be catered at the church.

SESSION 3 — 6:00 P.M.

Concert..... Sons of the Father
Welcome & Invocation
Introduction of Speaker
Worship Music Sons of the Father
Message..... Dr. Bob Pittman
Worship Music..... Sons of the Father
Message..... Dr. Kara Blackard
Benediction

Haitians in need of discipleship, church planting assistance

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Hopkinsville—In Haiti, “we’ve got a lot more work to do.”

That was the word from Fritz Wilson, the disaster relief coordinator for the Florida Baptist Convention, who recently spoke to a group of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

Through its 15-year missions partnership with Haiti, the Florida convention is coordinating relief and rebuild efforts in the country along with Baptist Global Response, the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board.

“Early on I described the Southern Baptist response to Haiti as a marathon,” Wilson said. More than a year later, “the reality is, we’re just getting started.”

Also just getting started are the spiritual journeys of hundreds of thousands of Haitians. According to Wilson, more than 250,000 people have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior since the earthquake struck the island nation last January.

And while thousands of church buildings were damaged or destroyed, more than 260 new churches have sprung up across the country.

With so much attention focused on Southern Baptists’ efforts to rebuild and repair Haitian homes and churches, it’s easy to overlook the great need for discipleship, said Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

“There’s a huge discipleship gap right now,” he explained.

Many of the new churches don’t even have pastors because they’ve just appeared overnight. “There are all kinds of new churches that could use partners in the church planting effort,” Webb said.

That’s where Kentucky and Southern Baptist churches can step in to help “those churches begin growing in a healthy way,” he added.

For those church groups interested in going, KBC leaders caution: do so through the proper channels.

Head of the KBC’s partnership missions department, Scott Pittman, warned that clandestine trips to Haiti, where the infrastructure is in such chaos, could lead to trouble for church groups and potentially harm the Southern Baptist witness there.

The thing to do, Pittman said, is to contact his office to inquire about opportunities that are available in Haiti. Groups ultimately will be directed to the Florida Baptist Convention to get connected.

Haitian witch doctor turns to new life in Christ

By Tristan Taylor
International Mission Board

Port-au-Prince, Haiti—The Haitian witch doctor stepped into the hot, open air of his yard, his arms filled with the paraphernalia of his dark practice. That caught the attention of his neighbors, who still were living among the earthquake-ravaged ruins of their homes in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The man dropped his voodoo tools and fetishes on the ground, dug a hole and pushed his things into it. Then, to his neighbors’ astonishment, he poured kerosene into the hole and set it all on fire.

“That was my way of saying, ‘Down with Satan and up with the cross,’” said the former witch doctor, who now goes by the name Montfort. His conversion occurred months before a rash of voodoo priest killings started in Haiti, spurred by a fear their black magic was spreading cholera.

Montfort had given his life to Jesus, and he wanted to let others know publicly that he was repenting of his old ways. God had given him a new life—and he was anxious to start living it.

“A lot of his neighbors have said he truly is a new man now,” said Delores York, an International Mission Board missionary. “A lot of people ... don’t recognize him as the same person. They say, ‘That really isn’t the same man, is it?’”

York met Montfort when she visited his neighborhood with a team of Southern Baptist volunteers after last January’s earthquake that destroyed much of Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital. As part of Southern Baptists’ ongoing relief efforts in the area, York—a nurse from Texas—and a team of volunteers from Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., were leading a medical clinic.

At that time, Montfort was going by a different name and still making his living practicing voodoo. An Ingleside volunteer pointed out Montfort to York because the volunteer saw a voodoo peristyle—a “temple” where voodoo rituals are conducted—in the man’s backyard. Sensing his spiritual need, York shared the gospel with him in Haitian Creole.

“God sent Sister Delores,” Montfort said through a translator. “She told me to put down my old way of life and pick up a way of life in God.”

Montfort told York he wanted to turn his life over to Christ. He said he realized Satan had stolen a lot of things from him, and he



NEW LIFE Montfort (standing), a former voodoo witch doctor, helps lead a home Bible study in his neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. After the January 2010 earthquake decimated his city, Montfort accepted Christ through the witness of International Mission Board missionary Delores York (seated next to him) and visiting Southern Baptist volunteers.

didn’t want to ever go back to that life.

“He finds joy in Christ now,” York said. “And he finds joy in sharing Christ.”

Immediate transformation

Montfort’s transition from witch doctor to Christian witness was immediate. In addition to burning his voodoo equipment, he started going by the name Montfort to differentiate himself from his dark past. “He said he wanted to change like Saul changed to Paul,” York shared.

Montfort asked York to start a Bible study in the very place he once operated his voodoo business. They started a small group in another neighborhood where Montfort had property. Finally, he even opened up his own home for a Bible study.

“He was pretty well getting them memorized,” York said. “He was leading the songs. He learned to pray. He learned to lead the people in learning memory verses. And he was doing a great job.”

But the transition hasn’t been easy. Changing both professional and social circles is a tough challenge in the best of times. But to do so in post-earthquake Haiti is a more difficult

thing altogether. Plus, Montfort has a family to support.

“I need a lot of strength and courage,” Montfort said. “I need your prayers so I can get started.”

York asked Southern Baptists to pray for Montfort’s spiritual growth and for Haitian believers to provide him with the spiritual support he needs. Pray he will also find another way to earn a living, York asked.

Recently, Montfort struggled to stay on track when York and her husband, Sam, took a short trip out of the country. While they were away, no one was available to continue the Bible studies she and Montfort had started holding around Port-au-Prince.

“Montfort couldn’t get work, rent was due and the spirit world was tormenting him,” York said. He didn’t feel close to other believers so “he felt rather alone.”

But Montfort has faith, he said. The change God has brought about in his heart is real, and he wants his life to be about sharing God with others.

“I believe God is going to give me work that I can do,” Montfort said. “God is going to take care of me because He has a plan for me.” (BP)

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Snow & ice scrub Sunday services, so pastor preaches via webcast

By Scott Barkley
Georgia Christian Index

Toccoa, Ga.—Like most Southerners, Andy Childs was thrilled with the Christmas Day snow. Like every pastor, however, he kept an eye on the worsening road conditions and the possibility of canceling services the next day at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Toccoa, Ga.

"Most of the day we watched weather reports, deciding to take a wait-and-see approach," Childs said. Around 8 p.m. he phoned worship and media leader Caleb Jones about whether to cancel the church's Dec. 26 activities. Jones had just gone by Ebenezer and reported that the parking lot had ice in it.

An hour and a half later, Childs and Jones had a plan to go ahead with worship—though not at the church.

Using the social media site Ustream, Childs was able to broadcast from his home while church members logged in online for the 10:30 a.m. service. Jones created a link to Ustream from Ebenezer's website to simplify the process. "He's the tech guy; I'm just the dreamer," Childs said. "I wanted it to be from our home page and made simple to use."

Childs' idea came from using Skype, a free online software application that allows users to make video phone calls. Childs and his wife had used Skype to call her family in Arizona for Christmas. In planning an alternative to meeting at the church building, Childs looked at taping a message versus a live broadcast. Ustream provided the option for the webcast, while 40-50 local churches ultimately canceled their services.

Church members were notified of the broadcast through the church's website, Facebook page and e-mails. After a 30-second commercial (required for the free Ustream account), Childs appeared on viewers' screens with his family's Christmas tree in the background.

After a brief welcome, the pastor read through



WORLD WIDE WITNESS Pastor Andy Childs of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Toccoa, Ga., preaches online from his home Dec. 26. Childs and other church leaders patched together the idea for a webcast the night before as snowy weather descended on north Georgia.

Luke 2 in completing a series, "The Gift of Hope." "I thought about having my wife sing Christmas carols," he said, "but she had the flu."

By Childs' and Jones' estimates, more than 280 viewers logged on to participate in Ebenezer's service, including church members visiting family in California and North Carolina.

What began as a quick fix has opened up ministry ideas, Childs said.

"It's created a lot of buzz. When we broke down the facts among viewers, we found a lot of senior adults had watched. They were excited about being able to be with the church and worship together even if we couldn't be at the same building," Childs noted.

"This has inspired more conversations about how to use technology for ministry," added Childs, whose church also has a podcast and regularly uploads mission trip updates to YouTube. "We were forced to go on our maiden voyage (with the snow and ice), but it's steered us into being more intentional on how to use social media to spread the gospel." (BP)

No school? Yea! Maybe, maybe not

Snow days can be fun, even lucrative, but are few and far between at Oneida

I can't write this column and be honest without saying I remember very well when I was in school, and there were no sweeter words than for my Mom to come into my room and say, "Guess what? There's no school today. It's snowing!" I mean, how good does it get?

As a kid I remember thinking how badly I needed that snow day. It was really important to me because I could earn extra money shoveling snow from my neighbors' sidewalks. The standard price for cleaning a sidewalk was about \$1. If they wanted the sidewalk around the back of the house shoveled, that would be another 50 cents.

One year, I had a great idea. Instead of taking so much time going door to door to find someone who wanted their walk cleaned, I decided to find a business with a parking lot and get one really big customer.

My opportunity came when I spotted a business that had a pretty good sized parking lot. Looking back I understand now why the ladies at the desk laughed when I asked about cleaning their lot. They went into a side room and brought out the boss who was equally amused at my offer. He asked how much I would charge. Being the business person I was, I gave him what we would call today the "bulk rate." How much was the "bulk rate?" Ten bucks! I remember the owner looking at me and asking me to repeat my "bulk rate" price. He asked me if I was sure I wanted to clean his lot for 10 bucks. I assured him I was the man for the job—well, boy, actually.

Four hours later I was hungry and a little tired. I went across the street and bought some

lunch, then went back to work. After a while it was getting late, and I still had a lot of parking lot to go. By then I was so tired I didn't care if I got the 10 bucks; I just wanted to get done and go home.

At closing time the business owner assured me that even though I had not completed my job, I had done quite enough. I found out later the office staff spent most of the day watching me and

laughing at the boy and his little shovel trying to clear the big parking lot. The owner offered to take me home and then presented me with a check for \$25. Wow! I didn't expect that. He told me the next time it snowed I was welcome to come back and clean his lot again. I didn't say anything, but if he had offered me \$100 I wouldn't have offered to clean that lot again.

During the past two months a lot of schools have closed because of snow days. You may know that at Oneida we

just don't have snow days. Actually, we did have one about 17 years ago when we had a blizzard while students were home for the Christmas holiday. They couldn't get back to our campus, so we didn't have school on Monday—but we did on Tuesday.

Our county schools only had classes four days in December, and as of this writing only four days so far in January. I know our day students who live here in the county but choose to attend OBI wish right now they were going to the county school. But come May 13th when our school year is over, they will be thrilled they don't have another month of school like the county students do.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; www.oneidaschool.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

From a DJ to a student

Caudill transitions from radio booth to Clear Creek campus

First-year student Brandon Caudill from Franklin thought the radio business would be his life—but God had other plans for him.

"I have an associate's degree in engineering technology," Caudill said. "I had been working at a local radio station in the Bowling Green area for the last eight years since I graduated from high school. The last few years, though, I began to feel that God was calling me into the ministry."

"I never once thought that I would be a student at Clear Creek. I had a friend who was a current student

becoming a student here when I met my wife, Candace, whose parents Alan and Cindy serve on the staff at Clear Creek," Caudill noted. "Candace happened to be taking some classes at Western Kentucky University for the summer when we met. I did not know any of this when I applied as a student. I know God brought us together."

"God has really opened my eyes to what it is He wants me to do with my life. I realize that it's not about what I want but what He wants. I know that God has me here at Clear Creek for a purpose. I am glad God led me to Clear Creek."

An interesting part of Brandon's call to Clear Creek also involves his new wife whom he met while preparing to come to Clear Creek.

"I was actually in the process of

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: www.ccbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

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We are easily broken

Challenging times remind us how fragile we really are

Life is fragile. That's an obvious statement but one that certainly seems more relevant as difficult circumstances occur. During the past few weeks, tragedy has taken place in our country with unexpected shootings; in one of our ministry partnerships in India; and near to home in some of our churches that attend Crossings.

In the midst of these challenging times, I am reminded of just how powerless we are as human beings. When things are going well and all we seem to see is success, our perceived mental state becomes somewhat "bulletproof" and we act as if we are all in control. Then all it takes is a split second to be jolted back into reality—the reality that we are fragile human beings.

Recently, I have been reading the book of Jeremiah. His life as a prophet was filled with what we would say is earthly failure. Jeremiah's ministry spanned decades and honestly it still is hard for me to imagine that he preached so long with what could be considered little success.

God's perspective of life is so

much different than ours. We know His ways are not our ways, but for us to live in such a way to demonstrate that truth is much easier said than done.

To begin with, we must have a right understanding of God and then who we are—fragile and frail beings that at any moment our life on this earth can quickly change. Secondly, as weak as we are, we must always remember that only by God's power working in us can we accomplish anything.

My prayer is that each day, I will realize my condition and my personal actions. And as these actions affect this ministry, that I will reflect these core truths of the Christian life. As we all face the same challenges, this should spur us on to take time to encourage each other throughout our walks on this earth; that we will remember life is fragile and we should make the most of every opportunity that comes our way.

David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at Box 99918, Louisville, KY 42069-0918; phone (502) 491-7000.

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

A new beginning

Sunrise offers Kentucky's hurting children a fresh start

Millions of people mark the new year by making resolutions to improve their lives. For many, it's a resolve to lose weight or get in better shape. For others it's a decision to gain better control over finances, reconciling relationships or strengthening one's own relationship with God. Whatever the resolution, this time of year seems the perfect opportunity to embark on a new beginning.

Sadly, for many children across Kentucky, a new beginning is just what they need, but it's impossible without the help of others who are willing to step up on their behalf. Children who suffer from abuse and neglect have little recourse on their own to change their conditions. It's only when that abuse has become obvious and severe enough to warrant intervention by authorities those children truly get a reprieve.

Sunrise Children's Services exists to help those children take advantage of the opportunity to salvage a childhood and to overcome some painful experiences. We do this through a network of foster homes, residential programs and community-based services designed to help young people deal with their pasts, but more importantly, help them prepare for the future. We strive to make sure young people have a safe environment in which to live and learn.

On any given day, Sunrise has more than 500 young people in its care. Each one arrives to us with a different story and a different set of circumstances, but what binds them together is a need for a fresh start.

It may be a toddler who is rescued from a home where physical violence already has left physical and emotional scars, but who is placed in a loving foster family where angry words and violence are replaced by kindness and hugs. Or maybe it's the teen who has been raised in an environment where drugs are the norm and that lifestyle has been passed on to them. Once removed from that el-

ement, however, the young person discovers his or her true worth and realizes the potential life without drugs affords.

Sunrise is a chance for new beginnings for these young people, and we're encouraged by those who take advantage of the opportunities granted.

As you ponder what the new year might hold for you, we hope you remember the children of Sunrise and their continued need for new beginnings and new opportunities. It's only through the support of people like you that we are able to serve these young people. You can learn more about what we do and how to help by visiting our website at www.sunrise.org.

Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

State of the (Moral) Union

Poll: Americans say moral climate in U.S. gets poor marks

By Nicole Neroulis

Washington—As President Obama assesses the state of the union, three out of four Americans grade the country's moral climate at a 'C' or below, according to a new poll released last week.

The PRRI/RNS Religion News Poll found that Americans cite partisan noise from cable, talk radio, blogs and the Tea Party as the main stumbling blocks to working across partisan lines.

At the same time, two-thirds of Americans say the nation's harsh political rhetoric bears little or no responsibility for the shooting spree in Tucson, Ariz., that killed six and left a Democratic congresswoman gravely injured.

And despite popular assumptions that faith can fuel bitter polarization between Americans, just one in seven respondents say religious leaders from the left or right are major obstacles to changing the tone in Washington.

"People are distinguishing between the political extremes and religious extremes, and they see the problem with politics, not necessarily with religion," said James Calvin Davis, religion professor at Vermont's Middlebury College.

According to the poll, white evangelicals (who generally identify with the GOP) fault liberal bloggers and cable commentators, while minority Christians (who tend to favor Democrats) blame the Tea Party and conservative talk radio.

People tend to see themselves and others like them—politically, religiously or otherwise—as part of the solution, not part of the problem, Davis said.

In contrast, white mainline Protestants rate both liberal bloggers and the Tea Party as equally obstructive to bipartisanship and "changing the tone in Washington."

Other findings include:

■ Americans over 65 (46 percent) are more likely than adults under 35 (25 percent) to grade the country's moral climate with a 'D' or an 'F.' A plurality of Americans (38 percent) give the nation's moral climate a 'C.'

■ Among all Americans, cable-news commentators (17 percent) are considered the biggest obstacle to bipartisanship and civility, followed by the Tea Party (15 percent), liberal bloggers (13 percent), conservative talk radio (12 percent), conservative religious leaders (8 percent) and progressive religious leaders (6 percent).

■ Tea Party members (34 percent) and Republicans (24 percent) are most likely to view liberal bloggers as the biggest obstacle, while Democrats blame the Tea Party (26 percent) and conservative talk radio (17 percent).

■ There's also a stark racial divide on bipartisanship: nearly a quarter of white evangelicals say liberal bloggers are the biggest obstacle, while one in five minority Christians fault the Tea Party.

■ Nearly two-thirds of Tea Party members dismiss the charge that violent and anti-government political rhetoric contributed to the shooting of Arizona Democrat Gabrielle Giffords; more than seven in 10 Democrats, and 55 percent of minority Christians, say it did play a role.

Davis said America's political rhetoric isn't necessarily worse than ever before—just louder.

"We should be careful not to long for an earlier day when things were more civil," he concluded. "Incivility is a deep-seated American tradition. ... It's just that the incivility is arguably more rampant these days because we have ... these megaphones that allow the uncivil voices in our culture to be even louder." (RNS)

Ala. governor apologizes for 'brothers and sisters' remark

Birmingham, Ala.—Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley apologized last week to anyone who was offended with his inaugural day comments that non-Christians were not his "brothers and sisters."

Bentley met for an hour with members of Alabama's Jewish community Jan. 19, and afterward told reporters he meant no insult with his words.

"What I would like to do is apologize. Should anyone who heard those words and felt disenfranchised, I want to say, 'I'm sorry.' If you're not a person who can say you are sorry, you're not a very good leader," Bentley said.

Bentley made his controversial comments after his inauguration Jan. 17 when he spoke at Montgomery Baptist Church where Martin Luther King Jr. once was pastor.

Bentley, in his comments at the church, said other Christians were his "brothers and sisters" and non-believers were not, although he wanted them to be.

Bentley said he was speaking in the language of his evangelical faith to other Baptists. The governor said he will never deny his beliefs, but regretted if he offended anyone.

"I do have core beliefs. I will die with those core beliefs," Bentley said. (RNS)

U.S. passed 53 million abortion mark in 2010

New York—In 2010, 37 years after the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, legal abortions in the United States topped the 53 million mark, a sobering stat that ethicists say should drive the public to speak up for the unborn.

The statistic is based on data compiled by the Guttmacher Institute, a pro-choice organization that releases abortion data every two years.

"Fifty-three million is the population of a medium-size country. Imagine the outcry if the people of Spain (46.1 million people) were destroyed by another nation," said C. Ben Mitchell, professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and a consultant to the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "Yet most of the world is silent about the destruction of the unborn."

"Christian love demands that we weep compassionately for the unborn, pray fervently that the killing would stop, work urgently for alternatives to abortion, and become the voice of the unborn in the public square," he added.

The U.S. has one of the highest abortion rates in the developed world and also some of the world's most liberal abortion laws.

"Too many of us fail to realize the magnitude of abortion's impact on society," ERLC President Richard Land noted. "If Christ followers are not staggered by the number of babies that have been aborted since the 1973 Supreme Court ruling in Roe v. Wade, it suggests we have bought into the notion that it is permissible to take the life of a child if its birth will inconvenience others."

"As believers who should be fully aware of God's personal involvement in the creation of each human being, we have every reason to be righteously indignant at society's callous attitude toward the unborn," Land added, "but more than that we are morally obligated to do something to stem the shedding of innocent blood at the hands of abortionists."

Laws are important, Land said, but it's "more important to change hearts."

"It is about changing hearts, particularly through Christ-centered ministries to women who are in what they consider to be crisis pregnancies and in teaching our own children about the preciousness of every human life," Land said. (BP)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 3-5 Southeast Conclave, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 5 Disaster Relief Regional Training, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 7 Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry, Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 8 Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 11-12 Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstow.
- 19 Kentucky Changers Volunteer Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 24-26 Basic Training Journey for Church Planters, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 28-3/1 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

March

- 1 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference Women's Emphasis, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 3 Growing Ministries Tour, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.
- 4-5 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 5 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions, Central Baptist Church, Corbin; First Baptist Church, Walton; Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro; Mount Zion Baptist Church, Paducah; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 5 Vacation Bible School Clinic—West, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 8 Growing Ministries Tour, Crittenden Baptist Church.
- 10 Developing Multi-Housing Ministries That Last, Crestwood Baptist Church.
- 10 Growing Ministries Tour, First Baptist Church, Whitesburg.
- 11 Developing Multi-Housing Ministries That Last, West Union Baptist Association, Paducah.

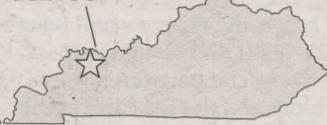
MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **CADIZ**—Darrell Porche recently resigned as pastor of Buffalo Lick Church.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Acton Church recently ordained Paul Pike, pastor of Eastside Church in Campbellsville, to the gospel ministry. John Batcher is pastor.
- **CLINTON**—Obion Church recently called Herbert Stephens as pastor. He previously served the church as pastor from 1991-99.
- **DEXTER**—Dexter Church recently called David Little as pastor.
- **LONDON**—Jim Blaylock recently resigned as pastor of Corinth Church.
- **PRINCETON**—Southside Church ordained Tim Cook, Shawn Holt, Mike Littlejohn, Ronnie Martin and Shane Whittington as deacons Jan. 9. Ronnie Sivells is interim pastor.
- **SPRINGFIELD**—Springfield Church recently ordained Terry

Spotlight on ...

Sebree



First Church will hold a note-burning service Jan. 30, 11:30 a.m. to celebrate paying off debt from an addition to its church building. A reception will follow the service. Bob Hardison is pastor.

McIlvoy, pastor of Rockbridge Church in Willisburg, to the gospel ministry and Berry Alcorn as a deacon. Justin Compton is pastor. ■ **WESTPORT**—Covington Church recently called Ryan Marcum as pastor.

Campbellsville football team gets NAIA character award

Campbellsville—When players walk out of their locker room at the Hawkins Athletic Complex at Campbellsville University, the first thing they see is a bulletin board full of photos from the football team's most recent service projects, thank you notes from teachers and community members, and a list of who will participate in the next events.

That commitment to community service is a key part of the Campbellsville football program, and one of the reasons why the team recently was named the Buffalo Funds Five Star NAIA Champion of Character Team for the 2010 football season.

"It's awesome for our team to receive this award," CU head football coach Perry Thomas said. "When you look at our team goals, character development is our No. 1 goal and has been a strong contributor to the continued growth of our program over the past few seasons."

CU senior captain A.J. Brown agreed that incorporating character into the team's dynamic has brought change to the program.

"It allows players to see people as they truly are, and it helps the team work together for the same goal. Character has helped me by staying true to myself and to my teammates," Brown said. "I believe character has helped the team believe in one another, develop trust (and) accountability. Now we all have one another's back."

The players often work in classrooms across Taylor County where they read in each of three local elementary schools at least twice during the fall season.

"It is a great honor for our football program to be recognized nationally for their dedication to serving others, and doing things the right way," said Rusty Hollingsworth, CU's director of athletics. "To receive this award speaks to the commitment of our coaching

staff and their dedication to providing young men an opportunity to learn how to become servant leaders for tomorrow."

Leading the Tigers' service platform is assistant head coach Jim Hardy, who has accompanied players on spring and summer mission trips to play softball and minister at prisons in Florida the past two years.

In addition to the reading opportunities and mission trips, Hardy divides the team into 11 service teams of 13, including one player captain. Throughout the year, the service teams participate in various service projects from organized events to helping rake yards for the elderly.

In May, the team volunteered to assist with the annual field day at Kentucky Christian Academy. But when inclement weather threatened to cancel the event, CU football offered to host the event at the school's indoor practice facility.

In the fall, the Tigers participated in a Tailgate for Reading at Taylor County Public Library event and helped provide aid around the holidays by working at a local food drive, participating in a campus-wide Operation Christmas Child and volunteering at Supper with Santa for children in the area.

Team members also helped serve the Greenville, S.C., area in November through various projects during their participation in the National Christian College Athletic Association Victory Bowl.

"This award is a testament to the commitment of our staff, players and the leadership of coach Jim Hardy," Thomas said. "It also speaks highly of Campbellsville University's commitment to being Champions of Character. I'm very proud of our team for their continued commitment to character development. I am also very grateful that the NAIA has recognized the efforts of these young men." (BP)

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FOR SALE: Order the newly-published *History of Georgetown Baptist Church: 1810-2010*. Authors and editors are Dr. Ira "Jack" Birdwhistell, Dr. Gwen Curry, Maribeth Hambrick, Carolyn Dyer, Daniel Tilford, Alan Redditt, Stan Dyer and Amy Schindler. Includes many color pictures. Price is \$32. Order online at www.georgetownbaptist.org.

SEEKING: A passionate leader to direct the children's ministry with a vision to grow a dynamic ministry at Lawrenceburg First Baptist Church, a central Kentucky church located in the heart of Lawrenceburg with a heart for Lawrenceburg. Interested applicants my send their resumes to Wayne Stratton, First Baptist Church, 111 North Main St., Lawrenceburg, KY 40342; or e-mail to wayne.stratton@lawrenceburgfbc.org.

SEEKING: A spiritually mature individual with strong musical training and leadership experience to serve as minister of music and worship in a church with attendance of 750-800. Skills in both contemporary and traditional worship styles and the use of media in worship are required. Send resumé to Search Committee, Westport Road Baptist Church, 9705 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40241; or chip@mywrb.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students and outreach for a purpose-driven church in suburban St. Louis County. Must have a passion for youth ministry and reaching students for Christ. College degree preferred. Please send resumé to: Minister to Students Search Committee, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044; or e-mail to randy@feefebc.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth, children and families. Woodburn Baptist Church is a growing, medium-sized, multi-generational and multi-site SBC church. Proven strengths in leadership and administrative management skills are essential. Previous successful experience in local children and student ministries, and an applicable bachelor's degree are required. Pursuit of a seminary degree is preferred. A detailed job description may be found on our website: www.woodburnbaptist.org. Submit a cover letter and resumé via e-mail to: personnel@woodburnbaptist.org; or by mail to Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth, Lakewood Baptist Church, Louisville. Send resumé to LBC Personnel Committee, 13803 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40245; or (preferred) e-mail shughes@lakewoodbc.org.

SEEKING: Minister of music, Post Oak Baptist Church, Russellville, Ky. Interim or permanent part-time. Send resumé to Jeff White, chairman, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276. (270) 726-6511.

SEEKING: Full-time children's minister to lead ministry for approximately 125 children and preschoolers and their families at Westside Baptist Church, Murray. College degree preferred, experience a plus. Send resumé along with cover letter to WBC Search Committee, 207 Robertson Road South, Murray, KY 42071; or e-mail to westside@wbc-murray.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor of students for Zion Baptist Church in Henderson. Candidate must have 5 years leadership experience, be visionary in student ministries, a team player, highly relational with students and families, and passionate about reaching youth and families for Christ. Responsible for development and leadership of all student ministries, middle school through collegiate. Resumes should be sent to Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy. 351, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail to general@zionbaptist.org. For more information, visit www.zionbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Reid Village Baptist Church in Mt. Sterling, Ky. We are looking for the Spirit-filled man that God has called to be the pastor and to preach the word for our congregation, looking to grow our congregation and God's kingdom. Send resumé to Eddie Ratcliff, 1827 Stratford Place, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353; or eddieratliff@roadrunner.com.

SEEKING: Part-time (paid) minister of music. Send resumé to Great Crossing Baptist Church, 1061 Stamping Ground Road, Georgetown, KY 40324.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for First Baptist Church of Dayton, Ky. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 76, Dayton, KY 41074, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

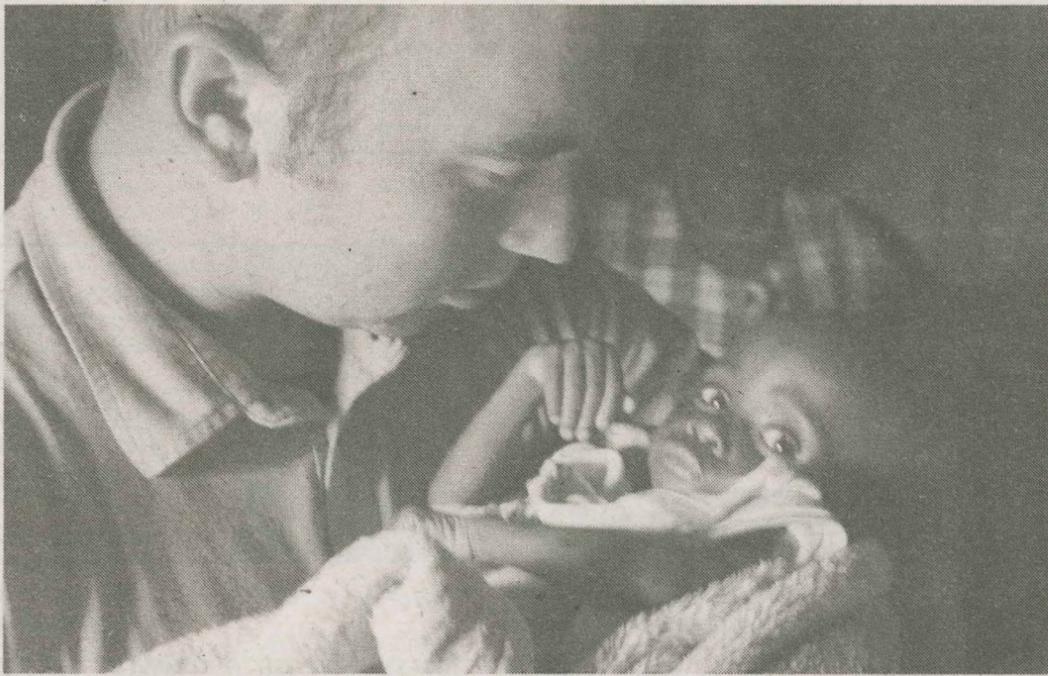
SEEKING: Ordained Baptist minister to fill position of full-time senior pastor at Midway Baptist Church, a dually aligned CBF/SBC church with both traditional and contemporary services. Prefer 4-year college plus seminary degree with 6 years ministry experience with 3+ of those as senior pastor. The church's vision statement is "Pointing the World to Christ through Love and Service." Additional information regarding MBC and its ministries can be reviewed at www.midwaybc.net. Resumes should be sent to office@midwaybc.net; or Midway Baptist Church, PO Box 352, Midway, KY 40347.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Liberty Association of Baptists. The vision of LAB is to assist each church in becoming an Acts 1:8 church, and to assist in strengthening and starting churches. Must be a called man of God, visionary, able to promote unity. Mail resumé to Task Randy Shaw, PO Box 1524, Glasgow, KY 42142; or e-mail to rand@cbcglasgow.com with DOM in subject line. Deadline: Jan. 31, 2011.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music. Job description on website at www.horsecavebaptistchurch.com. Please e-mail resumé to hbc@scrtc.com; or fax: (270) 786-4650. Deadline is Jan. 28, 2011.

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Preparing Christian Servant Leaders



While on the World Race, a mission trip to 11 countries in 11 months, John Blair, a 2005 graduate of Campbellsville University, prays over a 9-month-old baby, Gladice, who had TB and was going to die in a few days. The baby lived in a one-room shack in a mud-walled community in Nakuru, Kenya. Blair said he "wrestled with the goodness of God and why this child should have no reason to be in the situation."

Young CU alumni on mission

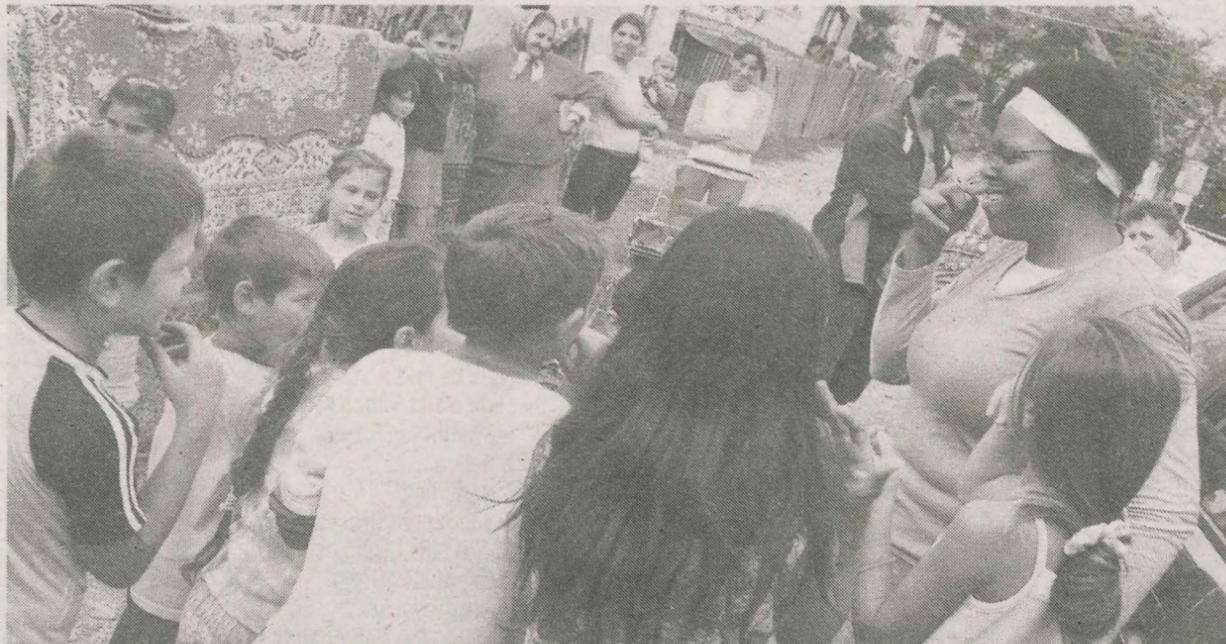
"What can you say when you walk into a mud walled church with no electricity and see 80 people sitting there, then the pastor says, 'All these people have AIDS, you encourage and prepare them for eternity.'"

- John Blair, Class of 2005
Lexington, Ky.

Sharing God's love

"It's interesting how you go on mission trips thinking you will save the world but instead God saves you."

- Casondra Radford,
Class of 2007
Nicholasville, Ky.



Casondra Radford, a 2007 graduate of Campbellsville University, entertains children in Romania while inviting the community in the village to attend church services. The village does not have a particular building for church; one house will typically invite people in for church. Radford was trying to learn the names of each child in the circle by making a different action for each name. She was on the World Race, an 11-month mission trip to 11 countries.

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